

Japanese Tsunami
Marine Debris

JTMD RESPONSE



Response Details:

Date Reported:	May 16, 2015
Debris:	Fiberglass Boat
Identification #:	N/A
Estimated Time at Sea:	4.2 years
Japanese Tsunami Debris Confirmation:	Strong Informal Evidence
Washington State Location:	QIN-Queets River Lat 47.5190; Long -124.3508
Size:	7.8 m x 1.7 m
Sample Collection:	Reaves & Franco (WDFW)
Beach Removal:	Quinault Indian Nation & WDFW
Number Non-Native Coastal Species types:	Estimated > 5

Summary:

First sighted by the U.S. Coast Guard on May 6 approximately 8 mile NW of La Push, WA. NOAA modelers predicted that the most likely landing would be around May 9th north of Grays Harbor. On May 17th, a boat was reported seen the day before washed ashore just south of the Queets River on the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN). A joint QIN/WDFW response team was on the beach May 18th and had to cut the boat in half and remove it over a 2 day period due to remote location and tides. Similar markings on the hull confirm that this was the same boat sighted by the Coast Guard over 10 days earlier. After more than four years at sea, this boat is considered likely to be debris from the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and resulting tsunami. Informal evidence includes boat style, boat name in Japanese, open sea species colonization, and presence of non-native coastal marine species including 8+ blue mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), 2 pink barnacles (*Megabalanus rosa*), crabs, amphipods, hydroids, algae, and possible shipworms. Sample collection by WDFW included extensive cutting up of the boat to look for species that colonized inside damaged hull areas.